

TRUE NORTHERNER.

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It is fully time that the preliminary steps looking toward submitting local option to a vote of the electors of this county should be taken. Blanks should be prepared, committees appointed and everything be in readiness for action on Tuesday, the 27th day of September, the day after the one on which the law becomes operative, and the next Saturday evening should find the petition in the hands of the county clerk, so that the date of the election may be determined during the October session of the board of supervisors.

Once republicans, at their recent state convention held at Toledo, adopted a platform that must meet with the universal approval of the party. On the question of protection to American industry and American labor, it is plain, unequivocal and outspoken. A special plank is devoted to the wool industry, and the democratic demand that wool be placed on the free list is condemned in unsparing terms. Indeed, the platform is sound on all matters of republican faith, and is one that is worthy of the great republican party of that state. A resolution endorsing JOHN SHERMAN as a candidate for the presidency was adopted without a dissenting voice. Governor FORAKER was renominated by acclamation, and the ticket filled out with the names of well known, able republicans, who will bear aloft the banner of the party to the overwhelming victory that is sure to be achieved at the approaching election.

A Whole Loaf or No Bread.

Judging from an article in the last number of the Paw Paw Herald, edited by Mrs. E. H. Brown, it seems that some of the good sisters of the W. C. T. U. are exceedingly anxious to give warning in advance that they will have nothing to do with what they are pleased to term the "local option humbug." "If advocating states' rights in 1861 was treason, would giving counties the right to enact laws independent of the constitution be any less so?" says the writer of the article in question. As no one proposes to give "counties the right to enact laws independent of the constitution," there is no need to answer such a question. The "treason" that is to be found in local option does not rise even to the dignity of a man of straw.

"Let Brothers PARKHURST, COPELEY, WOODMAN, ROWLAND and GLIDDEN circulate petitions." All right; those gentlemen all did as faithful and honest work in the contest for constitutional prohibition as did the author of the Herald article, and every one of them is willing to do the same for the success of county local option, believing that, even if they failed in their efforts to secure prohibition in the entire state, they will do a good work if they can secure it in our own county.

"And then, if we had such a law in this county, who would enforce it?" We might ask in return who would enforce constitutional prohibition if we had it. It would not enforce itself any more than any other statute. Indeed, the mere amendment of the constitution, without legislation to make it effective, would be nothing. Laws must be enacted under such amendment, and such laws must be enforced, otherwise the amendment would be entirely inoperative. But we will answer the query according to our best understanding of the matter. We believe the local option law would be, yes, we believe it will be enforced in this county by the same means that all other statutes are made operative; that is by the people, the officers and the courts; and it would have required these same agencies in exactly the same manner to enforce any statute that might have been enacted under constitutional prohibition. The people of our own county, our own officers and our own courts would have been the agencies and the only agencies that could have been appealed to to enforce the law had we secured the adoption of the amendment, and such agencies could have operated only in our own county, just as they will under local option, by the operation of which this county can secure just the same immunity from the traffic within its borders as it could do under state prohibition.

Less than two years ago, we used to hear many of the same parties who are so much opposed to local option in Michigan, deplaining on the success of prohibition in Georgia, and they were right; it is a success in that state, and such success has been achieved under the very system that has been inaugurated in Michigan—county local option. It was a wonderfully fine thing in Georgia in the estimation of such consistently inconsistent temperance people as the author of the Herald article, but it is "humbug" and "treason" when found in our own state.

There are but two classes of people who are opposed to the local option law, and they form the strangest and most paradoxical combination imaginable: we mean those who are avowedly in favor of the whiskey traffic and those who are "enlisted for life," as the Herald scribe puts it, for the everlasting prohibition of the iniquitous business. We have faith to believe that, in spite of such incongruous combination, this year will close out the traffic in Van Buren county and many other counties of the state, and that the day is not far distant when it will become an outlaw, not only in this county, but throughout the entire state and nation.

The TRUE NORTHERNER did all it could to secure the adoption of the prohibitory amendment, it will do all it can to secure county prohibition and will, at least while under its present management, be ready at all times to aid any effort that, in its judgment, will tend to the suppression and overthrow of the manufacture, sale and use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and it will not be so inconsistent as to refuse partial prohibition because it cannot have prohibition full and complete.

Restoration of Republicanism.

One of the most readable and interesting political articles of the day is that of Governor FORAKER in the August Forum, on the subject of the desirability of the return of the republican party to the complete control of the government of the nation. The governor wisely puts the question of "a free ballot and a fair count" as the first thing absolutely necessary for the welfare and prosperity of the country and argues forcibly that the very perpetuity of our free institutions hinges upon the right of every citizen to cast his ballot just as he chooses and to have it counted just as he cast it, and shows the hopelessness of securing this through the democratic party, a party that justifies fraud at the ballot box and is ready to avail itself of any temporary advantage that may be derived from such fraud. Mr. FORAKER fortifies his argument on this matter by facts and figures that fully sustain the position he takes. As an illustration, he states of affairs in the state of Georgia and says:

"That the South was made 'solid' by bloody and fraudulent methods is as indisputable a historical fact as the war itself. That it is now so maintained by improper methods is shown by such circumstances as the formal farce called a congressional election in the state of Georgia last October. In Ohio and every other republican state there are cast in each congressional election an average of about thirty thousand votes. There are about the same number of votes in each of the congressional districts of Georgia, but at the election of October 6th, 1886, the votes cast were as follows:

1st Dist. Scattering,	17, Democratic,	2,061
2d "	"	2,411
3d "	"	1,704
4th "	Indep'd't, 330,	2,909
5th "	Scattering, 1,	2,999
6th "	"	1,722
7th "	Ind'p'd't, 1,537,	5,045
8th "	Republican 33,	2,922
9th "	"	2,555
10th "	"	1,944

In other words, with a total vote of less than twenty-eight thousand, ten members of congress were chosen to represent the state of Georgia, and to wield as much power in shaping national legislation as any ten congressmen from Ohio and other states, who were chosen upon a total vote of 300,000.

The following comments on these figures, taken from the columns of the *Inter Ocean*, are sufficient to convince any reasonable person that popular elections in the state of Georgia have degenerated to be the merest farce:

It is interesting to compare these figures of 1886 with some anterior ones. In 1872 the republican vote of the first district of Georgia was 6,979, and in 1875 it was 6,714; the democratic vote for 1872 was 8,319, and for 1875 it was 11,252. In 1875 ballot stuffing was charged; later years developed the intimidation policy, by which 6,714 republican votes were annihilated and by reason of which only 2,061 out of a possible 9,000 of democrats think it worth while to keep up the form of an election. The republican vote of the second district was 3,789 in 1875 and about that in 1872. The republican vote of the third district was 3,789 in 1875. In the fourth district it was 8,466 in 1872; in 1875 it had entirely disappeared and has never had a place on the tally sheets since. The republican vote of the fifth district was 10,910 against 10,631 democratic in 1872; this old-time republican majority is not now represented by a solitary voter in the district. It is so in every district of the state, republicanism has ceased to appear as a political factor. It is ridiculous to talk of honest elections with such figures before one. It is utterly impossible that a party with such vitality as the republican party should have utterly perished. Even copperheadism made a better showing in the North during the war than republicanism is now allowed to make in states where half the voters owe their political existence to it.

Mr. FORAKER squarely meets and refutes the charge made by the democratic party that the republican party is responsible for this state of affairs. He says:

If it be said that the republican party did not stop these outrages when it was in power, the answer is that it has not been in power in the sense of controlling the legislative branch of the government, as well as the executive, since March 4th, 1875; and the true situation was not comprehended long enough prior to that time to admit of either the country or the party becoming educated to the stern necessities of the case.

But there are those who claim that it does not matter which party may be in power, for the reason that there is no authorized remedy for such wrongs. If there be no provision to meet such a case, then the reason becomes all the more urgent for the services of a party that can and will devise a way to correct such abuses and thus save our government from another wrench of violence that will otherwise surely and speedily come. In the meantime, it should be remembered that the general government formerly had an acknowledged right to go into any state or territory to hunt down a fugitive slave and can now go anywhere to collect the tax on whiskey and tobacco, draft a man into the army to protect it, regulate the management of railroads and do hundreds of other things necessary and appropriate to our welfare. Is it possible that our government can do all these things and yet the suppression of a million votes be a wrong without remedy? If so, the constitution is a slender one, the fathers who made it and another amendment is in order. At any rate, if we would have peace in this country these crimes must be stopped, and not only must the perpetrators of them be treated as criminals, but every man must be held equally guilty who lends encouragement to such wrongs by whining about sectionalism and "bloody shirt" and insisting that such political villainies must be "let alone."

This question of the freedom and purity of the ballot is not by any means the only argument urged, and urged in a most logical and convincing manner, why the republican party should be returned to power, but this matter is given precedence over all others, as upon it hinges the safety and perpetuity of the country and the very existence of the government itself.

This article of Governor FORAKER's may be regarded as sounding the key-note of the approaching presidential campaign and from it, it may reasonably be inferred that stalwart, out-spoken republicanism will be decidedly at a premium in 1888.

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